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Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the matter of	)
	)
Amendment of Part 90 of the	) PR Docket No. 93-144
Commission's Rules To Facilitate	) RM-8117, RM-8030
Future Development of SMR Systems	) RM-8029
in the 800 MHz Frequency Band	)
	)
and	)
	)
Implementation of Section 309(j)	) PP Docket No. 93-253
of the Communications Act-	)
Competitive Bidding	)
800 MHz SMR	)

To: The Commission

**Reply Comments of The Ericsson Corporation**

The Ericsson Corporation, on behalf of itself and affiliated companies (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Ericsson"), hereby submits its reply comments in response to comments submitted in the *Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*<sup>1</sup> in the above-captioned proceeding. In support thereof, Ericsson states as follows:

**I. The FCC Should Not Impose Mandatory Relocation on Incumbents**

The overwhelming consensus of the numerous parties that filed comments in this proceeding support the Commission's proposal to permanently grandfather incumbent 800

<sup>1</sup> *Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's rules to Facilitate Future Development of SMR Systems in the 800 MHz Frequency Band and Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act-Competitive Bidding 800 MHz SMR*, PR Docket No. 93-144, RM-8117, RM-8030, RM-8029, PP Docket No. 93-253, FCC 94-271, \_\_ Rcd \_\_ (Released November 4, 1994) (hereinafter "FNPRM").

MHz SMR licensees who operate in the upper 200 channels proposed for allocation on an MTA basis. Ericsson submits that the record in this proceeding clearly indicates that mandatory relocation of incumbent upper channel operators would be tantamount to mandatory disruption of their operations. Indeed, despite the fact that a few companies continue to argue for mandatory retuning or relocation, no company filing comments in this proceeding has satisfactorily demonstrated there is sufficient available 800 MHz spectrum to accomplish that goal.

## **II. There Is No Record To Support A Contiguous Allocation of 10 MHz For Wide-Area MTA-Based 800 MHz Systems**

In its initial comments in this proceeding Ericsson asserted that there had been no demonstration that a contiguous allocation for MTA-based 800 MHz SMR systems was necessary, especially since the Commission's rules already allow SMRs to create wide-area systems in the 800 MHz SMR band.<sup>2</sup> Many parties filing comments in the FNPRM supported this position. In fact, the majority of comments submitted in opposition to the Commission's allocation scheme focused on the proposal being an economic necessity for Nextel to effectively compete with cellular and PCS licensees.<sup>3</sup> Ericsson agrees with those parties who assert that the FCC should not amend its rules merely to provide economic relief to a limited number of licensees. This is especially true in the 800 MHz SMR band where the end result of the Commission's proposal would be to severely disrupt existing 800 MHz SMR operations. Accordingly, Ericsson reiterates its opposition to the

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<sup>2</sup> See, Comments of The Ericsson Corporation, p. 2. See also, Fleet Call, Inc., *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 6 FCC Rcd 1522, *recon dismissed*, 6 FCC Rcd 6989 (1991).

<sup>3</sup> Motorola, Inc., a supplier to Nextel, filed comments stating that its MIRS technology "...has the ability to operate on any SMR channels whether or not contiguous." Comments of Motorola, Inc. at p. 4. Thus, the need for contiguous spectrum is clearly not a technical issue.

Commission's general proposal to allocate the upper 200 800 MHz SMR channels for MTA-wide licensing.

### **III. General Category Channels Should Not Be Reassigned For SMR Use**

Numerous parties filing comments in the FNPRM opposed the Commission's proposal to reassign the General Pool categories for SMR-only use. Ericsson fully agrees with the comments expressing the view that General category channels should not be reassigned. It is critical in an already crowded band to ensure that all entities eligible for 800 MHz channels have equitable access to sufficient channels for their operations.

### **IV. Miscellaneous Issues**

As set forth above, Ericsson does not believe the Commission's wide-area proposal serves the public interest due to the fact that thousands of existing licensees would be adversely affected thereby. However, to the extent the FCC allocates the upper 200 channels of 800 MHz SMR spectrum for wide-area systems on an MTA, BTA or BEA basis, Ericsson agrees with those parties who asserted that eligibility for such licenses should not be limited only to those entities already operating wide-area 800 MHz systems. To do otherwise would be inequitable to existing non-wide-area licensees as well as potential new entrants. Principles of fair and open competition demand that all entities who are qualified to hold such licenses are able to vie for such licenses.

In addition, Ericsson agrees with those parties who support the BEA as the proper geographic size for 800 MHz wide-area licenses. It believes the BEA more accurately reflects the natural scope of SMR operations.

Lastly, Ericsson submits that a licensing method other than competitive bidding should be used to allocate MTA, BTA or BEA wide-area licenses. This is due to the fact that in the already heavily licensed 800 MHz SMR band, auctions or other competitive bidding methods will not adequately protect the interests of smaller entities who may wish to participate in the process.

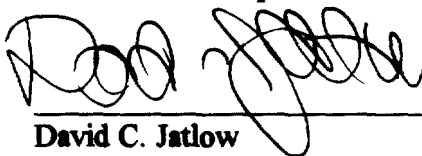
## **V. Conclusion**

As stated in its initial comments in the FNPRM, Ericsson is not opposed to the concept of licensing CMRS entities on an MTA, BTA or BEA basis. It only opposes the concept in the specific context of the 800 MHz SMR band due to the significant number of small businesses currently operating in the band who would be adversely affected by the Commission's proposal. Rather than cause significant disruption to these small business entities, Ericsson believes the more prudent regulatory decision would be to make no changes to the 800 MHz band. Maintaining the status quo with respect to the 800 MHz band will not have any adverse impact on competition in view of currently licensed or soon to be licensed spectrum for a wide variety of real-time, two-way voice services,

including but not limited to, the two existing cellular carriers in each market; up to 6 new PCS licensees; and at least three LEO satellite licensees.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ericsson Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David C. Jatlow", written over a horizontal line.

David C. Jatlow  
Its Attorney

Young & Jatlow  
2300 N Street, N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
(202) 663-9080

March 1, 1995

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Lisa M. Volpe, hereby certify that on this 1st day of March 1995 copies of the foregoing Reply Comments of The Ericsson Corporation were sent by postage-paid first class mail to the following:

**Michael F. Altschul**  
Cellular Telecommunications Industry  
Association  
1250 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

**Paul C. Besozzi**  
Besozzi, Gavin & Craven  
1901 L Street, N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

**Mary E. Brooner**  
Motorola, Inc.  
1350 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005

**Doyle E. Brown**  
Radio Communications Center  
3508 East Highland Drive  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

**Michael R. Carper**  
OneComm Corporation  
4643 South Ulster Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80237

**Travis Carroll**  
Raserco, Inc.  
923 East Hillsboro  
El Dorado, AR 71730

**Thomas J. Casey**  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom  
1440 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005

**Vernon D. Castille**  
Gulf Coast Radiofone  
1126 Boston Avenue  
Nederland, TX 77627

**Donald R. Clark**  
Don Clark Radio Communications, Inc.  
550 W. Pacific Street  
Blackfoot, ID 83221

**Marjorie K. Conner**  
Keck, Mahin & Cate  
1201 New York Ave., N.W.  
Penthouse  
Washington, DC 20005

**David Cosson**  
National Telephone Cooperative  
Association  
2626 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, Dc 20037

**Mark E. Crosby**  
1110 N. Glebe Road  
Suite 500  
Arlington, Va 22201-5720

**Gerald J. Duffy**  
Blooston, Mordkofsky, Jackson &  
Dickens  
2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20554

**Robert S. Foosaner**  
Nextel Communications, Inc.  
800 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 1001  
Washington, DC 20006

**Russell H. Fox**  
**Gardner, Carton & Douglas**  
**1301 K Street, N.W.**  
**Suite 900 East Tower**  
**Washington, DC 20005**

**Joel F. Freedman**  
**Dial Call Communications, Inc.**  
**1355 Peachtree Street, Suite 750**  
**Atlanta, GA 30309**

**Jere W. Glover**  
**U.S. Small Business Administration**  
**409 3rd Street, S.W.**  
**Washington, DC 20416**

**Mark J. Golden**  
**Personal Communications Industry**  
**Association**  
**1019 19th Street, N.W., Suite 1100**  
**Washington, Dc 20036**

**Lewis H. Goldman**  
**1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 1080**  
**Washington, DC 20036**

**Eliot J. Greenwald**  
**Fisher Wayland Cooper Leader &**  
**Zaragoza, LLP**  
**2001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.**  
**Suite 400**  
**Washington, DC 20006**

**Raymond B. Grochowski**  
**Latham & Watkins**  
**1001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.**  
**Washington, DC 20004**

**Robert M. Gurs**  
**Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick & Lane, Chtd.**  
**1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100**  
**Washington, DC 20006**

**Timothy P. Haley**  
**Centennial Telecommunications, Inc.**  
**130 N. Bond Street, Suite 201**  
**Bel Air, MD 21014**

**Carole C. Harris**  
**Keller and Heckman**  
**1001 G Street, N.W., Suite 500 West**  
**Washington, DC 20001**

**James T. Haydon**  
**B & C Communications**  
**1330 Stimmel Road**  
**Columbus, OH 43224**

**Katherin M. Holden**  
**Wiley, Rein & Fielding**  
**1776 K Street, N.W.**  
**Washington, DC 20006**

**E. Ashton Johnson**  
**Bryan Cave**  
**700 13th Street, N.W.**  
**Suite 700**  
**Washington, DC 20005-3960**

**Kathleen A. Kaercher**  
**Brown and Schwaninger**  
**1835 K Street, N.W.**  
**Suite 650**  
**Washington, DC 20006**

**Robert B. Kelly**  
**Kelly & Povich, P.C.**  
**1101 30th Street, N.W., Suite 300**  
**Washington, DC 20007**

**Raymond J. Kimball**  
**Ross & Hardies**  
**888 16th Street, N.W., Suite 400**  
**Washington, DC 20006**

**Mark Lindquist**  
**Communications Center, Inc.**  
**Box 1034**  
**Pierre, SD 57501**

**Dean C. Lovett**  
**DCL Associates, Inc.**  
**12301 Stoney Creek Road**  
**Potomac, MD 20854**

**Cathleen A. Massey**  
**McCaw Cellular Communications, Inc.**  
**1150 Connecticut Ave., N.W.**  
**Washington, DC 20036**

**William R. Miller**  
**Russ Miller Rental**  
**3620 Byers Avenue**  
**Fort Worth, TX 76107**

**A.C. Miller**  
**Spectrum Resources, Inc.**  
**307 Annandale Road, Suite 101**  
**Falls Church, VA 22042**

**Gerald L. Noe**  
**Wiztronics, Inc.**  
**1800 Ellis Street**  
**Bellingham, WA 98225**

**John D. Pellegrin**  
**John D. Pellegrin, Chartered**  
**1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.w.**  
**Suite 606**  
**Washington, 20036**

**Elizabeth R. Sachs**  
**Likas, McGowna, Nace & Gutierrez**  
**1111 19th Street, N.W., Suite 1200**  
**Washington, DC 20036**

**Robert H. Schwaninger, Jr.**  
**Brown and Schwaninger**  
**1835 K Street, N.W., Suite 650**  
**Washington, DC 20006**

**Alan R. Shark**  
**American Mobile Telecommunications**  
**Association, Inc.**  
**1150 18th Street, N.W., Suite 250**  
**Washington DC 20036**

**Jeffrey L. Sheldon**  
**UTC**  
**1140 Connecticut Ave., N.W.**  
**Suite 1140**  
**Washington, DC 20036**

**Raymond J. Stone**  
**American Industrial & Marine**  
**Electronics, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 715**  
**Dover, DE 19903**

**Catherine E. Sutter**  
**Pro-Tec Communications**  
**P.O. Box 11203**  
**Casa Grande, AZ 85230**

**Alan S. Tilles**  
**Meyer, Faller, Weisman and**  
**Rosenberg, P.C.**  
**4400 Jenifer Street, N.W.**  
**Suite 380**  
**Washington, DC 20015**

**Charles C. Townsend**  
**Atlantic Cellular Company, L.P.**  
**15 Westminster Street, Suite 830**  
**Providence, RI 02903**

**Laurence E. Wolff**  
**Diamond "L" Industries, Inc.**  
**715 North Highway 14 & 16**  
**Suite 290**  
**Gillette, WY 82717-0787**

**William C. Wyatt**  
**Total Com, Inc.**  
**2701 N. Van Buren**  
**Enid, OK 73703**



**Lisa M. Zaina**  
**OPASTCO**  
**21 Dupont Circle, N.W.**  
**Suite 700**  
**Washington, DC 20036**

**Deck Communications, Inc.**  
**Rural Route 1, Box 103**  
**Harvey, ND 58341**

**Bis-man Mobile Phone, Inc.**  
**1417 39th Avenue, S.E.**  
**Mandan, ND 58554**

**Nodak Communications**  
**Rural Route 1, Box 96**  
**Sykeston, ND 58485**

**Morris Communications, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 16419**  
**Greenville, SC 29606**

**Neilson Communications, Inc.**  
**23 East Oak Street**  
**Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-2786**

**Dakota Electronics**  
**424 County Road 19**  
**Rural Route 1**  
**Aberdeen, SD 57401**

**Southern Minnesota**  
**Communications, Inc.**  
**615 Fifth Avenue, S.W.**  
**Waseca, MN 56093**

**Brandon Communications, Inc.**  
**115 E. Front Street**  
**Brandon, MN 56315**


**E.T. Communications Co.**  
**2040 Radisson Street**  
**Green Bay, WI 54302**

**Bolin Communications Systems**  
**3210 Pleasant Grove Road**  
**Texarkana, TX 75501**

**Automated Business Communications**  
**2040 Radisson Street**  
**Green Bay, WI 54302**

**Vantek Communications, Inc.**  
**114 S. Franklin Avenue**  
**Sioux Falls, SD 57103**

**Keller Communications, Inc.**  
**11074 Harry Hines Boulevard**  
**Dallas, TX 75229**

  
**Lisa M. Volpe**